



Imagine waking up to this

If the presents don't have them smiling on Christmas morning, then this french toast will do the trick PAGE 19

MAKE IT A TARANTINO HOLIDAY
NEED A LAST-MINUTE PRESENT FOR
A FILM BUFF? GIVE THE BEST OF QUENTIN,
BOND OR HITCHCOCK WITH THESE
TOP-TIER DVD BOX SETS PAGE 13



TORONTO

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Monday, December 24, 2012

 News worth sharing.



North York resident Pat Desario shows off her family's Christmas-light display. They began putting up their lights on Thanksgiving, investing about 150 hours of work. They've never counted how many light bulbs are in the display. DAVID VAN DYKE/METRO

May your Christmas be this bright

Charity begins at home. North York family has raised more than \$90k with light display

On the drive through suburban North York to Pat and Amatore Desario's home, there are few houses with lovely Christmas

light displays, but when you turn the last corner you have no doubt that you've arrived. It's hard not to feel the "joy" that is spelled out in bulbs on their roof when you see the thousands of lights, numerous Santas, snowmen, reindeer, and a manger scene. Oh, and people staring open-mouthed from the sidewalk. Pat Desario said her family

has always decorated the house, but when things started to "get out of control" they decided they could use this tradition to raise money for the Hospital for Sick Children, where her daughter had been treated for juvenile diabetes. "She was at the hospital from the age of eight and they took very good care of her," said Desario.

Over 13 years they've raised more than \$90,000, and last year alone they raised a record \$16,000 because the light display's popularity had grown. "My husband basically spends Christmas Eve directing traffic outside," she said. On Wednesday night, a group of seniors mingled with a group of special-needs folks from the Meta Centre. A chor-

us of Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer broke out. Precious Osei, a residential counsellor with the Meta Centre, said this was the first year they took a trip to the Desarios' house. She called it a success. "They love it," she said. "They're looking around, they're singing. It's amazing.... I don't know how they did it." JESSICA SMITH/METRO

Lighting up

- About 90 per cent of the lights are energy-saving LEDs.
- The family's hydro bill is \$1,200 between October and early January.

Closing up shop: A Christmas tradition

Elva Cao, a salesperson at Boutique Maglia in Markham's Pacific Mall, can't imagine the store not being open on Christmas Day.

She was surprised to find out that the Asian mall is once again the only GTA shopping centre open on Dec. 25.

Toronto's holiday shopping bylaw allows the Eaton Centre and businesses in the tourist zones of the downtown Yonge area, Bloor-Yorkville, Queens Quay West and the Distillery District to open on nine statu-

tory holidays.

Most stores make the most of it — the Eaton Centre will open on Easter Sunday for the first time in 2013 — except on Dec. 25.

"It would be pointless (to open)," says Jeff MacDougall, manager of 401 Games on Yonge Street, open 364 days a year. Unlike on Victoria Day or Canada Day, most people stay at home — and it's where most of their employees would rather be as well, he says.

They are closing on New

Year's Day as well for the first time in 2013.

Closing on Christmas Day is a tradition, says Nick Barlas, owner of Central Surplus and Nick's Sporting Goods Store on Yonge Street.

"You have to respect your employees. They have families and they want to be together at Christmas," he says. "Money is not first."

In other provinces, like British Columbia and Alberta, businesses can choose whether to stay open. **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

Holiday hours

Here's what's open and closed for the holidays:

- **Eaton Centre.**
Dec. 24: 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Dec. 25: Closed
Dec. 26: 7 a.m. to 10 p.m.
- **Yorkdale.**
Dec. 24: 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Dec. 25: Closed
Dec. 26: 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

- LCBO and Beer Stores will open on regular hours and close at 6 p.m. on Christmas Eve but will be shut on Christmas and Boxing Day.

- On Dec. 24, TTC service will be running on the normal weekday schedule. The TTC will follow its Sunday schedule during Christmas and Boxing Day.

Neighbours prefer Real Jerk dry, quiet

Keeping things spicy. Popular Caribbean restaurant's owners tackling a new dispute in a new location

The fight between The Real Jerk restaurant and its landlord was a nasty public tussle that ended with the eviction of the popular east-end Toronto eatery earlier this year.

Owner Ed Pottinger and his wife, Lily, promised to sell their jerk chicken and rotis at a new spot, but that's now stalled over a liquor-licence dispute.

The Pottingers want to sign a lease to move into the ground floor of a stylish six-storey condo a few blocks west of their former stand-alone building at Queen Street E. and Broadview Avenue.

Their plans to sell alcohol, as they did at their former location, are on hold because 40 residents in the condo are challenging the licence application. The condo has nearly

70 units.

The Pottingers have building permits to fix up the empty 2,000-square-foot space, which would hold as many as 92 people.

But the residents have written to the Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario, claiming the sale of alcohol will cause problems, primarily added noise, for the building.

The province's Licence Appeal Tribunal must now decide whether permitting The Real Jerk to sell booze is "in the public interest."

The application can either be turned down, approved or approved with conditions, a commission spokesperson explained.

The Pottingers say the decision will determine whether they sign the lease.

Ed Pottinger didn't want to talk about the matter in detail, given the sensitive stage it's in, except to say he takes the residents' noise concerns very seriously and is working with the building's owner to ensure noise is kept at appropriate levels. **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**



Ed Pottinger and his wife, Lily, outside The Real Jerk's possible new location. Area residents say the restaurant's acquisition of a liquor licence will lead to more noise. COLIN MCCONNELL/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

\$1-million racket

Former exec the mastermind in fraud, York U says

A former top York University executive received about \$250,000 worth of home improvements, including a Jacuzzi hot tub, in a widespread phoney-invoice racket that he masterminded on campus, the school alleges.

In a major lawsuit, York says former assistant vice-president of campus services and business operations Michael Markicevic used staff and construction materials from the university for work at two family homes, while the school unknowingly covered the costs.

Sworn affidavits indicated the university paid for painting, carpentry, electrical work, landscaping, a concrete driveway and goods ranging from a video screen and shower doors to the hot tub at a Markicevic home in Vaughan.

In denying York's claim, which also names 18 other individuals and six companies as defendants, Markicevic said it was an attempt by senior employees to cut deals with authorities to minimize "their fraud" and falsely implicate him in serious wrongdoing.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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OKVILLE
1027 Speers Rd., Unit 22
478 Dundas St. W., Unit 7
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130 King St. W., Unit CW15
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3



4

Making spirits bright

'Twas Sunday before Christmas and all through Toronto
Shoppers were scurrying to the mall — pronto!
Skaters were graceful on city hall's ice
And kids were assuring St. Nick they are nice

For the homeless, a restaurant opened its door
And the world, with that charity, was a little less poor
A priest spoke of God in his Eucharist service
As a butcher sold turkey (for a fee, unlike Mirvish)

From us at Metro Toronto, to you reader dear
Merry Christmas to all and a Happy New Year!

JESSICA SMITH/METRO

Photos by Dave Starrett/For Metro



6



5

1 Hitting the ice.

Jorge Lopez takes his daughter, Valeria, 4, for her first skate at Nathan Phillips Square.

2 Sidling up to Santa.

Emily Falle, Nathan Faria and Santa stand in front of Casa Loma.

3 Dad, daughter, doll and deer.

Joel and Samantha Krusich, along with her doll, pause in front of one of the Eaton Centre's giant, lit-up reindeer displays as they finish their last-minute shopping.

4 Christmas at the cathedral.

The Very Reverend Douglas Stoute, Dean of St. James' Cathedral, after the 11 a.m. Choral Eucharist.

5 A bird in the hand.

Matt Gasparro, who has worked for Brown Brothers Meats for 35 years, holds up a turkey at the St. Lawrence Market.

6 Festive dinner for all.

Karl, left, Julie Montagna, David Lakeit and a man who asked not to be named were the first in line for Biagio's annual dinner for the homeless. Montagna offered her sincere thanks to the owner and asked that everyone who appreciates his kindness repay it by coming to the King Street restaurant's New Year's Eve party.

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Gang rape protesters maintain their position

A protester chants slogans as she braces herself against the spray fired from police water cannons in front of India Gate in New Delhi on Sunday, the second day in which police clashed with thousands of people demonstrating against the gang rape and beating of a 23-year-old student on a bus. Even with Home Minister Sushilkumar Shinde's promise to consider protesters' demand of death penalties for all six suspects, the demonstrations continued. For an update of the protest, go to metronews.ca. DANIEL BEREHULAK/GETTY IMAGES

Justice Canada. Major study puts big price tag on spousal violence

A major federal investigation into spousal violence says it cost society at least \$7.4 billion for the thousands of incidents that occurred in just one year.

The Justice Canada study examined a broad range of economic impacts, from policing and health care to funerals and lost wages, for every incident of spousal violence in 2009.

Drawing on a Canada-wide police database, researchers found almost 50,000 cases of spousal violence reported to police that year, more than 80 per cent of them involving female victims. The cases included 65 homicides, 49 of them women.

The study also mined an annual Statistics Canada telephone survey, which estimated some 336,000 Canadians in 2009 were victims of some form of violence from their spouse. The definition of spouse included married, common-law, separated, same-sex and divorced partners.

The authors then meticulously accounted for all costs associated with the violence, from the obvious — legal bills for prosecutions and emergency-room visits — to the painfully personal.

The cost of crime

- The study is the third produced by Justice Canada since 2011 on the comprehensive cost of crime, all using similar methodology.
- The first looked at the economic impact of all reported crimes in 2008 (\$99.6 billion); the second, the costs of gun-related crime in 2008 (\$3.1 billion).

The latter includes purchasing special telephone services, such as call display, to identify a stalking spouse or ex-spouse, usually male; or moving expenses incurred to escape harassment and assault by relocating to another community.

Altogether, total costs were conservatively estimated at \$4.8 billion for female victims and \$2.6 billion for male victims.

The 145-page report was completed this fall and obtained by The Canadian Press under the Access to Information Act. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Sticking to its guns

NRA not wavering on call for armed guards at schools

The largest U.S. gun-rights lobbying organization on Sunday forcefully stuck to its call for placing armed police officers and security guards in every school as the best way to avoid shootings such as the recent massacre at an elementary school in Newtown, Conn.

Wayne LaPierre, CEO of the influential National Rifle Association, said his organization would push Congress to pay for more school security guards and would co-ordinate a national effort to put former military and police officers in schools as volunteer guards.

The NRA's response to the Newtown shooting has been panned on several fronts.



AUTUMN DRISCOLL/THE CONNECTICUT POST/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

'I lost my baby'

Plane crash survivor recalls mother's screams

A woman on a plane that crashed in Nunavut, killing an infant, says she heard the child's frantic mother crying as she and the other survivors clambered from the wreckage to safety.

Malaya Uppik says she doesn't know how the tiny six-month-old was killed and she doesn't remember much about the crash, but she can still hear the mother's screams.

"I remember she was crying: 'My baby. I lost my baby,'" Uppik, 46, said from her home in Sanikiluaq.

Uppik was one of nine people — seven passengers and two pilots — on the chartered Fairchild Metro 3/23 twin-engine turbo prop when it crashed while landing Saturday night at the airport in Sanikiluaq.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



The damaged aircraft lies at Sanikiluaq Nunavut Airport, Saturday. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

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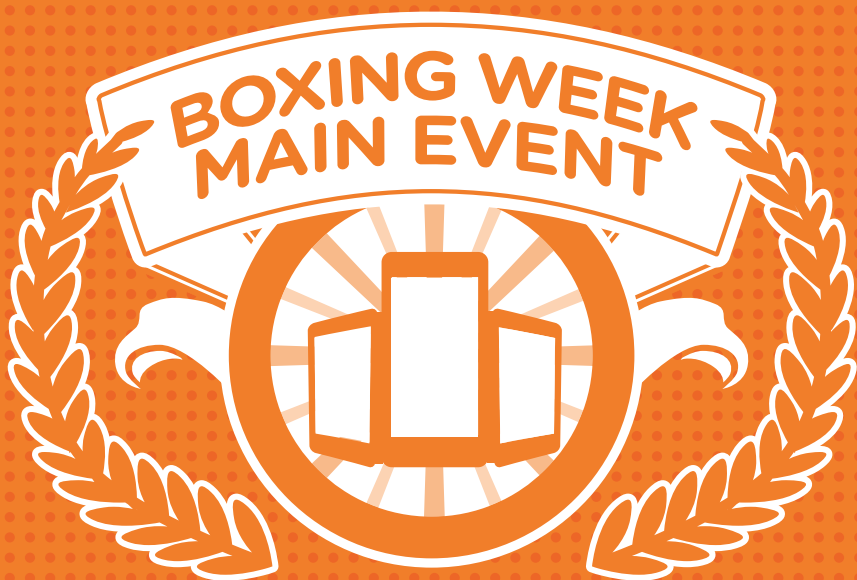
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Ring of Fire

Some facts and figures about the massive mining deposit in northern Ontario.

- Chromium is the Ring of Fire's main claim to fame, but there are also proposals to mine nickel there, and



A girl walks along the street in Fort Hope First Nation, Ont.

RYAN REMIÖRZ/THE CANADIAN PRESS

hopes for copper, zinc, gold and palladium.

- There are about 100 mining companies with holdings in the area, but only 35 of them are actively exploring, and just two have actually proposed mining.
- Suicide rates are high in the 49 First Nations communities that make up the Nishnawbe Aski Nation, an advocacy group that covers most of northern Ontario.
- Between 2005-2012, there were 163 suicides in the Nishnawbe Aski Nation area. There have been 18 suicides so far this year.

Mine plans pause in wake of suicide

Northern Ontario's Ring of Fire. The delay coincides with the prime minister's push to ramp up the pace of mining and energy extraction

The people at Cliffs Natural Resources know the challenges of mining in difficult conditions.

But this is a first: The multinational has had to extend deadlines on its environmental-assessment process in northern Ontario's Ring of Fire because of a suicide crisis.

Another young man took his life a couple of weeks ago, prompting a spiral of despair in Neskantaga First Nation. Twenty young people in the small community of about 300 were put on suicide watch. The chief and council went to ground.

And the chances of them completing their feedback on time for Cliff's environmental

assessment terms of reference faded to zero.

"Neskantaga asked for some extra time on that, and given the circumstances, we figured that was right to do," Bill Boor, Cliffs' senior vice-president of Global Ferroalloys, said in a telephone interview.

"We've been clear with people that we're going to be the operator of this project long-term, assuming it goes forward...."

"We kind of balance our interest in holding to a schedule with a very high level of interest in making sure we're doing it right."

In the sparsely populated Ring of Fire, where Cliffs and other companies are hoping to set up mining operations that would create thousands of jobs over decades, suicide rates are among the highest in Canada. They're the most tragic sign of the poverty, lack of employment and sexual abuse that First Nations face in the area on a daily basis.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Phillipe Wapoose stands in his living room as his wife, Lizzie, who suffers from heart and liver problems, watches her 11-month-old niece on the Fort Hope First Nation, Ont., a Ring of Fire community. "We have layers and layers of trauma," says Liz Atlookan, the Fort Hope health director. RYAN REMIÖRZ/THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Tiff over 'lobster' island

Machias Seal Island.

Treeless piece of rock subject of dispute between Canada and the United States

A tiny island between New Brunswick and Maine is the subject of renewed calls from both sides of the border to settle a territorial dispute once and for all.

Machias Seal Island is a flat, treeless piece of rock located about 19 kilometres south of Grand Manan Island and 16 kilometres west of the Maine coast at the mouth of the Bay of Fundy.

The island is a sanctuary for many kinds of seabirds and draws visitors from around the world to observe them in the summer.

There are no permanent human residents on the island, just pairs of lightkeepers who spend 28 days at a time maintaining a lighthouse operated by the Canadian Coast Guard.

So why would anyone even care which country gets title to Machias Seal Island?

The answer lies in the 720 square kilometres of water around the island in what's called a grey zone. Lobster fishermen from both Canada and the U.S. fish these waters.

"The fishing community on Grand Manan is permitted to fish there on an open-end basis and it's our way of laying our claim to this water that is part of the Machias Seal Island dispute," said MP John Williamson, who represents the riding of New Brunswick-Southwest.

Williamson said the island

is considered to be in his riding. "I think our claim is sound and is legitimate, but at the end of the day, it's going to come down to the minister in this country and the administration in Washington to settle it," he said.

A spokeswoman for the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade said ownership of the island and surrounding waters is clear as far as Canada is concerned: They are Canadian.

"Canada's sovereignty over Machias Seal Island and sovereign jurisdiction over the 210 square nautical mile surrounding waters is strongly founded in international law," Barbara Harvey said. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**



Ballet a tougher nut to crack

Minister of Finance Jim Flaherty lifts his wife MPP for Whitby-Oshawa Christine Elliott from the floor as they perform as Cannon Dolls in the National Ballet production of The Nutcracker in Toronto on Sunday.

FRANK GUNN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

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A CITY HALL WATCHER'S CHRISTMAS WISH LIST



URBAN
COMPASS
Matt Elliott
toronto@metronews.ca

They say the holidays are a time to be hopeful. And so, on Christmas Eve, this Toronto City Hall watcher is making three wishes.

They're all being made, of course, under the long-shot

assumption that I've been nice enough this year to earn some presents under the tree. Like I said, it's a time to be hopeful.

My first wish is for a new focus on the issues. Politicians at the Queen Street clamshell have spent way too much time over the past year retreading old matters from previous administrations. We saw a debate on the very same transit plan that council approved under Mayor David Miller. We watched as councillors — again and again — talked about whether plastic bags should cost a few cents. And don't get me started on the will-they-or-won't-they saga that surrounded the Jarvis Street bike lanes.

Enough is enough. Let 2013 be a year about moving forward on new issues. I'm sick of reruns.

Fix it already

The bottom line is that the Gardiner is an old, decaying structure that carries thousands of heavy vehicles every day. It's not something that can be glossed over or fixed with a Band-Aid.

Second wish: I'd really like to have complete information about the Gardiner Expressway, both present conditions and options for the future. City staff have said there are maybe six more years of life in the elevated highway unless a huge repair bill is met, but a previously approved study of options for the section of the expressway between Jarvis Street and the Don Valley Parkway was, for some mysterious reason, put on hold.

The bottom line is that the Gardiner is an old, decaying structure that carries thousands of heavy vehicles every day. It's not something that can be glossed over or fixed with a Band-Aid. The lack of information about long-term solutions is depressing.

My last wish is simple: I'd like a mayor.

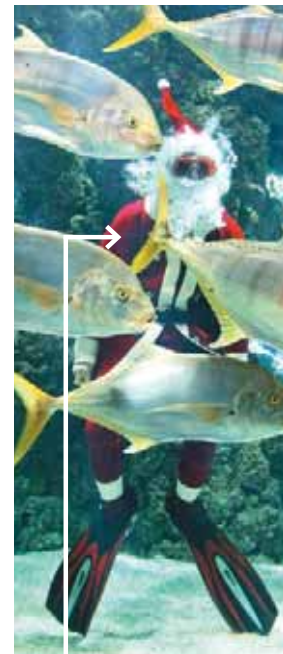
Honestly, I don't really care who it is. It could be Mayor Rob Ford. It could be NDP MP Olivia Chow. It could be Adam Vaughan, Shelley Carroll, John Tory or Karen Stintz. It doesn't really matter. I just want to know who's going to do the job for the next couple of years.

As it is, in the wake of the court ruling in the Ford conflict-of-interest case, city hall has been gripped by too much uncertainty and wild speculation. There are so many questions — about appeals, appointments, byelections and whatever else — that everything, including the 2013 budget process, has been overshadowed.

It makes for a lousy status quo. As the city manager has pointed out, there are big issues coming down the pike. Council has a serious decision to make on transit-revenue tools in the coming year. And the issue of a Toronto casino seemingly will not go away. If we can't have real leadership, city hall at least needs stability.

That's the wish, anyway. Here's to a happy — and hopeful — holiday season.

Santa-spotting around the world



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: RAJESH KUMAR, VAHID SALEMI, LIONEL CIRONNEAU, KAISA SIREN, ANDY WONG/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

China

Sexy Santas

Girls dressed in Santa Claus costumes lean on a snowman on Sunday as they wait to distribute the sweets in their baskets to children at a shopping mall in Beijing.

Although Christmas is not traditionally celebrated in China, some shopping malls welcome the festival with colourful decorations as a chance to boost year-end sales. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

India

Schoolgirl Santa

A schoolgirl dressed as Santa Claus distributes sweets as others look on during

Christmas and New Year's celebrations in Allahabad, India, on Saturday.

Although Christians comprise only two per cent of the population among a Hindu majority, Christmas is observed across the country as an occasion to celebrate. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Finland

Hirsute Santa

Santa Claus gets ready to start the long journey to children all over the world the day before Christmas Eve at the Arctic Circle in Rovaniemi, northern Finland.

Rovaniemi is the capital city of Lapland and claims to be the home of Father Christmas. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Iran

Sunglasses Santa

An Iranian Muslim takes a picture with Santa Claus in a Christian neighbourhood in Tehran on Sunday.

Iran's constitution gives protected status to Christians, Jews and Zoroastrians, but many religious minorities sense growing pressures from the Islamic state.

Iran has claimed as a point of pride that it makes space for other religions. It reserves parliament seats for Jewish and Christian lawmakers and permits churches — Roman Catholic, Armenian Orthodox and others — as well as synagogues and Zoroastrian temples

that are under sporadic watch by authorities. Religious celebrations are allowed, but no political messages or overtones are tolerated.

In past years, authorities have staged arrests on Christians and other religious minorities. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Monaco

Scuba Santa

Pierre Frolla of Monaco, a four-time world-record holder in free immersion, wears a Santa costume on Friday for his dive without an aqualung among fish in the Oceanographic Museum of Monaco aquarium. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Newsmaker pick 'disgusting,' Rae tweets

The selection of Luka Rocco Magnotta as Canada's 2012 Newsmaker of the Year lit up the country's social-media and news websites on Sunday with a cyclone of outrage and condemnation.

The alleged killer, who now sits in a Montreal detention centre as his case goes through the legal process, was the subject of a global manhunt last spring after Chinese engineering student Jun Lin was killed, his body

cut up and remains mailed to four locations in Ottawa and British Columbia.

The event, including Magnotta's capture last June at a Berlin Internet café, was splashed across newspaper front pages and websites all over the world.

Magnotta was chosen in the annual poll of the country's newsmakers by The Canadian Press.

Interim Liberal leader Bob Rae was among the first



to express his anger on Sunday, tweeting to 33,361 fol-

lowers that the "Canadian Press reaches a new low with its naming Magnotta as 'newsmaker of the year.' Truly disgusting."

After being challenged about the news value in a response by one his followers, Rae went on to say The Canadian Press had resorted to "cheap sensationalism" and that "lots of people had more impact and made more news."

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Twitter

@AndrewRamanand: • • • • •
MyChristmaswishes for the gun violence to end!

@johnromandj: • • • • •
I've been training all year for tonight. #FeatsOfStrength #Festivus

@ednnabonnsu: • • • • •
Last min christmas shopping with the rest of Toronto. Fml

@_ThatGnarlyKid: • • • • •

MyChristmaswishes for it to snow.

@BraveWhimp: • • • • •
Time to call Kramer and get a hand putting up the Festivus Pole...Festivus for the rest of us!

@harrypurplmonky: • • • • •
MyChristmaswishes ... that everyone, everywhere think peace, feel peace, act peace and #BePeace

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Last-minute gift ideas for the cinephile in your life

2 SCENE

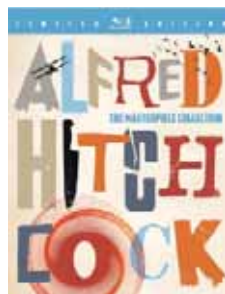
DVDs. Still stumped for gifts? Hurry out and get one of these top DVD and Blu-ray sets — some of the best 2012 has to offer

PETER HOWELL
scene@metronews.ca

The Story of Film: An Odyssey (\$60): Irish film critic/scholar Mark Cousins takes you on an engagingly idiosyncratic 15-hour trot through the history of film — not just Hollywood classics but also the world-cinema landmarks that are an important part of the story. A must for cinephiles, it's also highly entertaining.

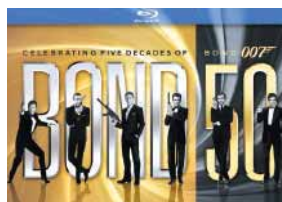


Alfred Hitchcock: The Masterpiece Collection (\$198): Now in Blu-ray, and finally including North by Northwest, this smartly serves the master of suspense's six-decade career, which began with silence in the 1920s and continued through such fright classics as Vertigo, Psycho, The Birds, Rear Window and many more.



Blade Runner 30th Anniversary Collector's Edition (\$90): It's got all five versions of Ridley Scott's much-loved 1982 sci-fi classic in slim Blu-ray volume, plus a 72-page book containing previously unseen production photos and sketches. One of the discs holds more than 1,000 photos. And the set includes a Spinner car replica to boot!

Bond 50 (\$400): All 22 James Bond movies on Blu-ray for the first time, leaving room for Skyfall, the 23rd one coming soon to video after a record-setting theatrical run. Chances



are very good you already own most or all of the 007

canon, but it's likely you'll still desire this boxed set, if only for its intelligent design, and 122 hours of extras.

Tarantino XX (\$75): Get ready for Django Unchained (opening Christmas Day) by revisiting all of Quentin Tarantino's entertaining and influen-



tial oeuvre. This blood-red Blu-ray package has eight discs, which span nearly 20 years, from Reservoir Dogs to Inglourious Basterds, plus True Romance (which he wrote but didn't direct). It's a must, all right?

Harry Potter Wizard's Collection (\$350): Satisfy a true Potterphile with one wave of your wand, a.k.a. your credit card. Not even evil



Lord Voldemort could beat a set that includes 31 discs, including all eight Harry Potter films, plus innumerable extras and collectibles packed into a tricked-out box that you may need a brainy Hermione to assist you in opening.



Heaven's Gate (\$50): Famous for nearly killing Michael Cimino's directing career, for shuttering his studio, United Artists, and for enlivening many a worst-of list, this epic 1980 tale of 19th-century western blood and love has come into favour as reflection has replaced knee-jerk. This Criterion release is packed with extras that make the claim for belated greatness.

When the tunes brought us together

A social song. Beck harkens back to a time when music bonded the masses

Beck Hansen wants you to think about the way music has changed over the last century, and what that means about how human beings engage each other these days.

Labouring over the intricate and ornate details of his new

Song Reader sheet-music project, he was struck by how social music used to be — something we've lost in the age of ear buds.

"You watch an old film and see how people would dance together in the '20s, '30s and '40s. You'd go out and people would switch partners and it was a way of social interaction," Hansen said. "It's something that was part of what brought people together. Playing music in the home is another aspect of that that's been lost. Again,

I'm not on a campaign to get people to take up songs and play music in their home or anything. But it is interesting to me, the loss of that, what it means."

Beck hopes the Song Reader inspires some of us to pick up instruments and limber our vocal cords. It includes 20 songs annotated on sheet music that's been decorated in the style popular in the early 20th century when the songwriting industry was a thriving enterprise with billions of songs sold.



Beck spent six months finishing off his project, *The Song Reader*, after working on it sporadically for years. KIM D. JOHNSON / THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The singer notes in the book's preface that Bing Crosby's *Sweet Leilani* sold an estimated 54 million copies in 1937, meaning about 40 per cent or more of the U.S. population was engaged in learning how to play that song. "There's popular bands now that people

know the words to their songs and can sing along, but there's something about playing a song for yourself or for your friends and family that allows you to inhabit the song and by some sort of osmosis it becomes part of who you are," he said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Life as they knew it changed for good

Bomb Girls. Meg Tilly talks about her role as a floor supervisor at Ontario's Victory Munitions during WWII, and how female perspectives were forever altered

ANNE BRODIE
scene@metronews.ca

The Second World War brought Canadian women out of the home and into the workforce. Thousands were employed in an Ontario munitions factory, helping in the war effort, earning their own paycheques and standing on their own two feet as their men fought overseas. *Bomb Girls*, starting season two Jan. 4 ET/PT at 8 p.m., continues as they navigate life at Victory Munitions and on the home front. Meg Tilly plays Lorna, the floor supervisor:

Lorna's a great leader. She's stoic, efficient and level headed. But her home life

is unstable.

That's what I love about her. Everybody has light and dark and joys and sorrows and they're all intermingled. There is no good one or bad one. We finished season one with her pregnant and pregnant women aren't allowed to work on the line. Lorna has always been a by-the-rules person and the whole situation changes her. In season two, because of this, she's not so rigid. She's broken several rules. She did things that were wrong if you're going to go black and white. I think she's got more compassion and sees more shades of grey. That's a shift.

How did the work change women?

It contributed to the feminist movement. All these capable women who were underutilized found themselves out there doing useful things. Usually women would be born in a town, be raised in the town, marry and die in the town. And all of a sudden women made decisions. They came from all over the country to work in the plant. It's really important to show

the change that happened with women. Everything changed, that's what (The Second World War) was to us. The focus is usually on the sacrifices of the men, but now we see the women and how they changed our country and how they effected change. And now I see that time so differently. I think back to my grandparents. I wish they were alive now so I could talk to them about what their experiences were like. People are lucky if they still have people alive who can talk about it. It wasn't that long ago.

What happened to the women after the war?

That was a shock. Those were the dark years, some of them call it. All of a sudden it was over. And the men came home and it was changed. And everyone's trying to pretend it was exactly the way it was before the war and it wasn't. Everyone was dealing with this huge shift and women lost loved ones, fathers, brothers, lovers, husbands and they're dealing with other loss, loss of identity and self. They worked and grew and bloomed and

felt useful for something other than baby rearing and cleaning the house, and then suddenly they had to ask for permission to buy a hat. I remember seeing interviews from this one woman. She said it only takes so long to clean the house. You're working hard, and then it's gone. And the woman said, "Until I had my baby, those were the dark years."

Bomb Girls is topical, with references to events in Oshawa or the possibility of Nazi planes flying over Canada.

I didn't know how close we came to ... I didn't know. The storylines are amazing. I read (Second World War) tweets every day — 3,000 killed in bombing in England and you see photos of the streets and think, "Wow, how is it possible?" I didn't realize the extent of what happened. You read Hitler meets with so and so. Hitler says he's not invading anyone, and then he invades.

There were Nazi prison camps in Canada?

I know. I didn't know that. And that's in the show.



Meg Tilly plays Lorna, the floor supervisor, in Global's *Bomb Girls*. HANDOUT

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TORONTO

Maintaining the voice that made his career

Italian tenor. Andrea Bocelli talks about his new album, ignoring the luxury items in life and his belief in the goodness of people

AMANDA QUEIRÓS
Metro World News

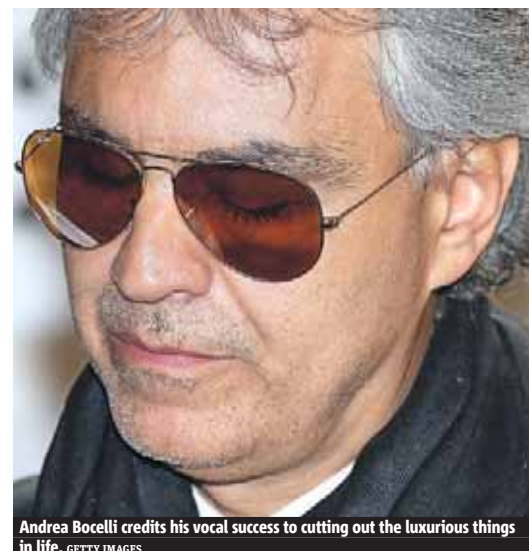
The Italian tenor who gave a pop touch to classical music confesses his love for opera, soccer and good food and explains how he maintains his voice and his popularity worldwide.

At the age of 54, the Italian tenor Andrea Bocelli reaps impressive numbers for an opera singer. On Jan. 29, he releases *Passione*, in which he sings in six languages.

He spoke to Metro about the mix between popular and classic music that made him famous across the world.

Why have you decided to merge classical and popular music?

Actually, I try to split them



Andrea Bocelli credits his vocal success to cutting out the luxurious things in life. GETTY IMAGES

up.

Classical music and pop are two different universes, each with its own difficulties, peculiarities, depth and artistic dignity.

Of course, in presentations in arenas, I try to sing classical music to propagate it better. I do not really like

the term crossover. I also have no need to label what I do.

What are the sacrifices demanded by your career?

The most difficult in my profession has always been the being separated from the people I love.

In regards to that, I especially think about my parents and how brave they were to teach me how to be brave by sending me to study far from home when I was still a boy so I could have a better life later.

How do you preserve your voice?

I never stop trying to perfect the technique.

This lesson I learned from my friend and great tenor Luciano Pavarotti. He taught me to sing effortlessly and give the best of myself — something essential, or otherwise there would be no more singing at my age.

I follow a strict diet before tours and opera seasons, having an almost monastic life, forgetting wine, coffee, pasta and other important joys of life.

The opera singer in general is a gourmand and refuses to be limited — and I'm no exception. But one problem is the reflux, almost a "working disease" of singers, which requires me to be more careful at the table.

Director chronicles the passing of time in free-flowing film

The End of Time. Peter Mettler gets existential in documentary that threads together seemingly unconnected elements

ADAM
NAYMAN
scene@metronews.ca

Recently selected by TIFF as one of Canada's top 10 films of 2012, Peter Mettler's *The End of Time* is documentary filmmaking at its most visionary and ambitious — a globe-trotting essay film about the nature and passage of time featuring astonishing images of geological processes at work.

Mettler also finds room for everything and everybody from a Swiss particle accelerator to the Detroit-based electronic musician Richie Hawtin, a.k.a. Plastikman.

"I'd been interested in techno for several years," explains Mettler.

"I'd been to the Detroit electronic music festival several times and had talked to Richie, and someone who I was working with to develop software in Toronto had done one of his shows in Detroit. So the paths all sort of

crossed."

That idea of interlaced trajectories is central to *The End of Time*, which at times seems to be biting off more than it can chew, but always leaves the viewer with food for thought.

"It's about exploring," says Mettler, whose previous film, *Gambling, Gods and L.S.D.*, was similarly free-associative.

"That's my M.O. The thing about exploration is that it leads you to things you weren't expecting to find — discoveries and connections you never would have expected.

"I think that's exciting and worthwhile. I've never been interested in sitting at a desk and drawing out a blueprint. That's not my way."

One thing that does separate *The End of Time* from Mettler's other films is its familial connection. The director's mother appears in a short but key sequence near the end of the film.

"She came to the premiere in Locarno, Switzerland, which was a first," says Mettler, whose family has Swiss roots.

"She was there dressed in pink on stage in front of 3,000 people. It felt good to be able to bring her back to her own culture through the

film."

The End of Time is now playing at TIFF Bell Lightbox.



Director Peter Mettler is behind *The End of Time*, one of TIFF's selections for Canada's top 10 films of 2012. HANDOUT



Mettler finds room for everything in his doc, including an abandoned church in Detroit. HANDOUT

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METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES



Stephen Moyer & Anna Paquin

Playing passionate lovers on TV while trying to keep the magic rolling when the cameras are off is a high wire act — just ask Lucy and Desi. While we don't see Moyer tiring of getting some nookie from Sookie, since Paquin has fairy blood (well, on True Blood she does), we can see her spreading her wings and leaving her post-modern Dracula for a mischievous Peter Pan spirit.



ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Avril Lavigne & Chad Kroeger

Prediction: Chad will go ahead and make things so complicated ... with the wedding planning. His insistence on hiring a pyrotechnic coordinator, an arctic fox wrangler and an "I do" mic check man all in a vain attempt to prevent reporters from writing "this was even blander than a Nickelback show" in their wedding reviews will backfire.

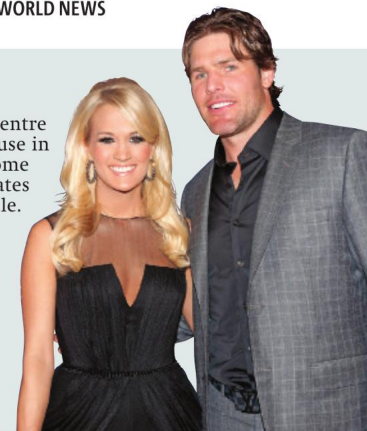


For the rich and famous, who divorce as commonly as we take out the garbage, love is a pretty transient notion. Like two yachts passing in the night, celebrity relationships tend to be louche and fleeting. While Kim K and Kris Humphries' mere 72-day-union may be difficult to beat, here are some candidates well worth drafting in the first round of your 2013 celebrity break up pool.

MIKE DOJC, METRO WORLD NEWS

Mike Fisher & Carrie Underwood

Thanks to the lockout, the Predators' gritty centre spent plenty of time lounging around the house in his hockey socks. The mere whiff of what home life may be like when Fisher hangs up his skates may be enough to get Underwood to skedaddle. Now if Fisher were to develop a wandering eye, no on-ice punishment will possibly prepare him for what awaits. Hell has no wrath like a country singer scorned.



Swizz Beatz & Alicia Keys

Keys is Beatz' third wife and they say the third one is the charm. But the prolific producer, who has laid down beats for everybody from DMX to Whitney Houston, seems to also be a prolific player. He's the baby daddy of three other children in addition to Egypt, his son with Keys. It seems like after a few years, his penchant for variety kicks in and the Beatz tends to go on. Can the vivacious R&B chanteuse break the spell or will we soon hear the ominous sound of history repeating?

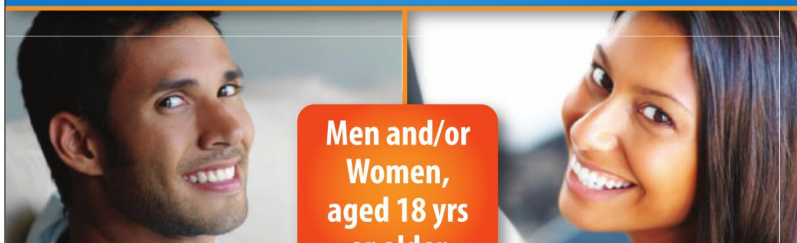


Brian Austin Green & Megan Fox

Donna's boyfriend on Beverley Hills 90210 must pinch himself every morning when he wakes up and comes to the realization that he's in bed with Hollywood's most ogled actress. Green is flexing his previously underutilized comic muscles in his latest gig as the lead singer on Wedding Band, a TBS sitcom. Meanwhile, Fox's cleavage steals the trailer to Judd Apatow's This is 40. Both roles may be career altering, creating the kind of festering inequity and resentment that leads to break ups.



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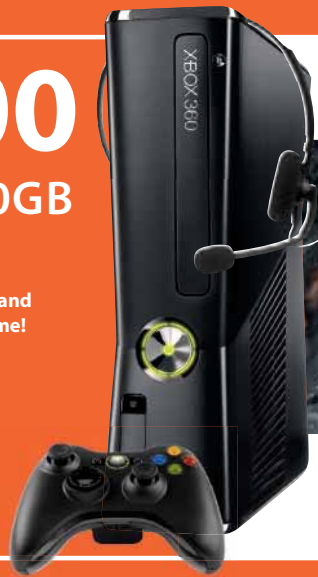
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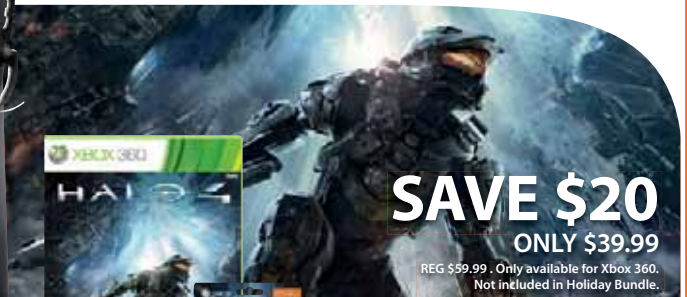


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Avoid the ritual of the cookie exchange



IT'S ALL RELATIVE
Kathy Buckworth,
kathybuckworth.com

One of the first signs that Christmas is coming is the perky little email you'll get inviting you to join what's called a cookie exchange.

This is a very frightening ritual where women throw down their briefcases, stethoscopes, even BlackBerrys, to immerse themselves in a world of baking little special treats.

The real purpose behind having Christmas baking in

the house is not clear, as most women will spend the balance of the year complaining about the size of their own thighs and the expanding girth of their husband. If we all hate the fact that ourselves and our spouses, and presumably our children are getting a bit fatter year by year, why do we persist in actively seeking out little bite-size pieces of calorie laden treats that we can haul out with two minutes notice?

I'll admit to also finding something strange about really wanting to make 140 little macaroons or confetti squares. Don't you people have a better way to spend your afternoon? No, I say stick to the holiday drinking and let the nice lady in the neighbourhood drop off some treats for you when she realizes she couldn't convince anyone else to join in the

madness, and she's already baked a million little macaroons. Excerpted from Kathy Buckworth's *Shut Up and Eat: Tales of Chicken, Children & Chardonnay*, 2010, Key Porter Books. Available now on Kobo, at bookstores everywhere, and on audible.com in February, 2013.

KATHY BUCKWORTH IS AN AWARD WINNING WRITER. VISIT KATHYBUCKWORTH.COM OR FOLLOW KATHY ON TWITTER @KATHYBUCKWORTH.

This holiday, entertain like Martha

Martha Stewart. She doesn't do appetizers, won't serve red wine and — surprise! — sends email invites. The domestic guru shares tips for hosting the perfect party

TINA CHADHA
Metro World News in New York

Dream of hosting epic get-togethers that will spread like wildfire on Instagram and Pinterest, but have yet to organize something more involved than cheese and crackers?

You, aspiring hostess, need a thought-out game plan, so we checked in with domestic powerhouse Martha Stewart (consider it an early Christmas present).

"I always have a Christmas open house," she explains. "This year, I've decided to do brunch."

Here, she takes us through her personal party prep. Take notes, people!

Start with the right company

"The first thing I do is create my guest list. I have a basic list of my friends and then people who I've added to it throughout the year. I send out a save-the-date. Then I send out an email invitation — but it's embedded in my email so it opens immediately. You don't have to go clicking here and clicking there. It's very important to me. I don't click on an envelope that opens up. Right click here and download pictures — I don't go for that stuff."

Plan your menu

"Next I start on the menu. What do I really want to cook? What do I really want to serve? After the menu planning comes the shopping list."

Dive into a theme

"Two weeks before the party, make sure you have everything you need for decorating and (put it up). We lost a lot of trees in Sandy, so I'm using a lot of fallen trees as decoration. All my big trays are slabs of wood cut from the trees that fell down. And I made beautiful coasters from three-inch-diameter branches that are sliced very thinly. You have to think of a theme — is it woodland or what is it? I have a theme for all



Martha's tips will ensure your party is a success. GETTY IMAGES

of my parties. I think it's fun."

Create signature drinks

"Make a really good drink from fresh juices, the best ingredients and serve it in

beautiful glasses. I'll also serve white wine. I don't serve red wine in my house because I don't want people to spill it — unless it's a seated dinner. We're going to have home-

made bloody marys with homemade tomato juice, eggnog and hot mulled white wine. You have to be a little creative, thoughtful and adventurous."

How the holidays bring you home

KATHY ULLYOTT
life@metronews.ca

One late night in December, when I was 25, a couple of years after I'd moved from Saskatchewan to Toronto, my parents picked me up at the Regina airport for the two-hour drive home for Christmas. It was typically sub-sub-zero as we counted off the rhinestone string of heroically named villages on the familiar route north — Holdfast, Liberty, Stalwart, Imperial.

Then, in the distance off to the left, a cluster slowly brightened to glow a welcome — the Christmas lights of an isolated farm, as blue as lapis lazuli, under an impossibly vast and velvet sky.

What is it about the Christmas season, now as much a secular holiday as a religious one, that makes its memories

Quoted

What is it about the Christmas season ... that makes its memories so intense and indelible? Maybe it's that it engages so many senses — the sounds of familiar carols, the tastes of fruitcake and gingerbread, the brilliance of store windows.

so intense and indelible? Maybe it's that it engages so many senses — the sounds of familiar carols, the tastes of fruitcake and gingerbread, the brilliance of store windows at nightfall.

Maybe the winter solstice really is a time, as the ancient Celts and other cultures believed, when the veil between our world and that of the spirits thins, giving us a glimpse of our place in eternity.

Or maybe it's that the universal pause at the top of the year invites reflection and taking stock, just as it inspires com-

passion and generosity. In that breath, TV specials from your childhood, your own child's eyes on her first Christmas morning and shining moments with loved ones now gone all seem to pack themselves into a parcel of memories as dense, compact and vivid as a deck of cards.

I don't go home to Saskatchewan for Christmas every year now. The top of the year has become busy, my own children are starting to scatter, flights for four during the holidays are expensive.

But from the crowded aisles of a big-box home store this week, a faint Good King Wenceslas took me, suddenly, back to a Grade 4 Christmas concert, jostling with 23 other excited children as we waited behind a closed stage curtain for our turn to sing.

As my family unpacked tree ornaments from their nests of tissue, I lifted a sprig of ripe durum wheat that I brought from my dad's farm two decades ago and have placed on our Christmas tree every year since. Instead of Christmas, though, it brought back dusty golden harvests, with their long, molten sunsets and flocks of ducks flapping noisily up from the cut swaths.

This week in Toronto, it is 8 C and slightly damp — not at all like Christmases I remember. I am working in my third-floor home office, scrambling to bundle two weeks' worth of work

into this one. Across the street, my neighbour is rigging a string of Christmas lights around his porch. His little daughter stamps in puddles; jacketless teenage boys shout and scramble in a game of street hockey.

My husband returns from a meeting; he has stopped to do a bit of shopping on the way home. My daughter dashes in and changes for her after-school job; I yell at her to remember to give me her Santa list.

My neighbour finishes up across the way and begins taking down his stepladder just as the sky starts to thicken into dusk. Night falls. He switches on his string of lights and they burst into tiny twinkling tongues of lapis-blue fire. Crowded chimney silhouettes disappear against the dark, and the clattering hockey sticks sift into dry tongues of snow licking across a Prairie highway. It is Christmas.

Cranberries and cream cheese unite in Christmas breakfast

If you can make a peanut butter and jelly sandwich and fry an egg, you already have all the skills needed to make this incredible Christmas morning stuffed French toast.

We start with cinnamon swirl bread and make sandwiches using cream cheese spiked with dried cranberries and crystallized ginger. Dunk the sandwiches in eggs blended with cinnamon and a bit more ginger, then toss them in the pan. But don't forget the maple syrup!

Want to get a jump on this

Ingredients

- 4 oz cream cheese, softened
- 1/4 cup chopped dried cranberries
- 2 tbsp finely chopped crystallized ginger
- 1 tbsp honey
- 8 slices cinnamon swirl bread
- 4 eggs
- 2/3 cup fat-free half-and-half
- 1 tsp cinnamon
- 1/2 tsp ground dry ginger
- Butter, as needed
- Maple syrup, to serve



This recipe serves four. MATTHEW MEAD/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

the night before? Prepare the sandwiches up to the step of soaking them in the egg mixture. Refrigerate them until morning, then proceed as directed. You'll have delicious French toast on the table in less time than it takes for the kids to empty their stockings.

1. In a small bowl, mix together the cream cheese, cranberries, crystallized ginger and honey. Divide this

mixture between 4 slices of the cinnamon swirl bread, spreading to just a 1/2 inch from the edge. Top with the remaining 4 slices of bread to make 4 sandwiches.

2. In a medium bowl, whisk together the eggs, half-and-half, cinnamon and dry ginger.

3. Dunk each of the sandwiches into the egg mixture

to thoroughly coat and soak them.

4. In a large skillet over medium heat, melt just enough butter to coat the pan. Working in batches, fry the sandwiches for 4 minutes per side, or until nicely toasted and heated through. Add butter between batches. Serve warm with maple syrup.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Banana French Toast Bake. Delicious blend



1. Place 4 slices of bread in a single layer in a buttered 23-cm (9-inch) square baking dish. Top with bananas and 4 slices of raisin bread.

2. In a blender or food processor, blend milk, cream cheese, eggs, sugar, flour and vanilla until smooth. Pour over bread. Let stand for 5 minutes or cover and refrigerate overnight.

3. Bake in a 180 C (350 F) oven for 40 to 45 minutes (50 to 55 minutes if it's been refrigerated) until set and top is toasted. Let stand for 10 minutes.

4. Cut french toast into diagonal halves and remove with

spatula. Dust servings with powdered sugar, if desired.

THE CANADIAN PRESS/SUN-MAID

Ingredients

- 8 slices raisin cinnamon bread
- 2 medium bananas cut in 5-mm (1/4-inch) slices
- 250 ml (1 cup) milk
- 125 ml (4 oz) softened cream cheese
- 3 eggs
- 75 ml (1/3 cup) sugar
- 45 ml (3 tbsp) all-purpose flour
- 10 ml (2 tsp) vanilla extract
- Powdered sugar

Healthy gift you can eat

As far as I'm concerned, the best holiday gift is one that's handmade and edible. And if you can make it in big batches on a budget — and have it be healthy — even better.

The food police love to vilify pancakes as nothing more than carbs and sugar, but these guilty pleasures can be nobler than that. At their base, pancakes depend on a few key ingredients: flour, salt, sugar and leavener. If you swap in whole-wheat flour for at least some of the white flour, add a little flaxseed, slash some of the sugar and top off the finished product with fresh fruit, you're suddenly looking at a very respectable breakfast.

At holiday time, you can measure the batch into pretty containers — old canning jars are perfect for this purpose — attach a nice handwritten label and recipe with a ribbon and consider it done. The deluxe version? Just add a little package of dried fruit or a tiny bottle of maple syrup.

Pancake Mix

1. Into bowl, sift all of ingredients. Transfer mix to a 1 quart glass bottle or canning jar and screw on the lid. Attach the recipe (below) with a ribbon.

Flaxseed Pancakes

1. In a small saucepan over medium heat, cook the butter until it is light brown in colour and has a nutty aroma.



This recipe makes four cups of mix. MATTHEW MEAD/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

2. In a medium bowl, whisk the milk and egg. Add the pancake mix, then mix with a spoon, stirring just until the ingredients are combined. Stir in the browned butter.

3. To make pancakes, heat a large nonstick skillet brushed with oil or coated with cooking spray over medium-high heat. Reduce the heat to medium and ladle either 1/4 cup or 1/8 cup portions of the batter into the pan (depending on whether you want large or small pancakes). Let the pancakes cook for 1 to 2 minutes or until small bubbles appear on the surface. Flip, then cook for another 1 to 2 minutes or until golden on the second side.

4. Pancakes can be kept warm in a 200 F oven while remain-

Ingredients

Flaxseed Pancake Mix

- 2 cups whole-wheat flour
- 1 cup all-purpose flour
- 1 cup flax meal
- 2 tbsp sugar
- 1 tbsp plus 1 tsp baking powder
- 1 tsp table salt
- 2 tbsp unsalted butter
- 1 cup milk
- 1 large egg
- 1 1/2 cups flaxseed pancake and waffle mix
- Freshly cut fruit or berries and pure maple syrup, to serve

ing batter is cooked.

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Improve homework habits in four steps

Expert advice. Oxford Learning's Dr. Nick Whitehead has these tips to offer for making homework time as hassle free as possible

Do you want to make homework simpler? It can be done readily with a little guidance from specialists in this field.

Oxford Learning founder and CEO, Dr. Nick Whitehead, says that homework doesn't always have to be a headache.

"Homework might be an unavoidable part of school, but it doesn't have to be the worst part. With the right skills in place, students can turn homework from headache-inducing to hassle-free."

These steps will make a quick difference:

Use your agenda

The brain is capable of great feats, but it's not perfect. Students should never rely on it to recall every school detail.

When a teacher assigns

homework, students should write the details in their agenda. Many schools provide agendas because they are the best organizational tools available.

According to Whitehead, to make them effective, students need to remember to take the agenda out of their school bags at night, open it up, and read over the night's to-do list.

Remove distractions

Computer on, music on, text messages incoming ... this is not multitasking, it's distracting.

Whitehead says that unless students are doing research, they should shut off all electronics and focus on the task at hand for a set period of time. They'll find that it's easier to concentrate and that tasks take less time. He adds that this fact has been confirmed by studies showing learning isn't as deep and that retention suffers when students multitask.

Think actively

Getting homework done is the name of the game, but



Homework is more like a molehill than a mountain if you approach it the right way. ISTOCK

what happens if students are struggling with a ques-

tion, or can't figure out an answer? Before giving in

to frustration, it is wise for the student to take a small

break then return to look at the problem again.

According to Whitehead, students should consult their textbooks and school notes, take a step back to ask what the particular unit is all about, and even move ahead a few questions and see if the next section can help explain a little better. If not, use the Internet.

"Don't just stare at the question; ask how this question relates to what is being learned overall," he says.

Get organized

Homework is as much a part of the daily routine as waking up in the morning and going to bed at night, but it's often the most disorganized part. Whitehead recommends streamlining the process.

"Students should keep all the homework-related accessories in a bin or a bucket so they don't waste time searching for pens or a calculator." He also recommends picking the same spot to do homework every night, and (when possible) completing homework at the same time each day.

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Entrepreneurs benefit from progressive mentoring

When you picture a mentor, what image pops into your head? For many people, the image is someone in their 50s or 60s who has been in a particular industry for decades or who is retired or semi-retired and still enjoys teaching. There are, however, many faces of mentoring.

Today, young and emerging entrepreneurs are not only starting and expanding their own businesses, they are knowledge-sharing with their peers and even becoming mentors to those who once guided their own decisions for the future. Many young entrepreneurs enjoy the personal growth they experience from being both mentee and mentor, with



These days, the line between mentor and mentee are blurred. ISTOCK

those roles becoming less of a hard line in the sand through the abundance of resources and tools now available at our fingertips.

Linda Morana, mentor-

in-residence at the Canadian Youth Business Foundation, sees the impact mentoring relationships have on both mentors and young entrepreneurs. "They appreciate the unique and valuable perspectives they receive from one another — it is not a one-sided process that only benefits the entrepreneur," explains Linda.

"We've received great feedback at events where we included reverse-mentoring because it involves more of an equal exchange: Mentors coach entrepreneurs through a business challenge and vice-versa. It's also a social and an idea generation exchange as much as a business interchange." NEWS CANADA

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NFL in pictures



1 Colts-Chiefs.
Luck sets
rookie passing
record with Indy

Andrew Luck threw for 205 yards to break the single-season rookie record, and his touchdown pass to Reggie Wayne late in the fourth quarter gave the Colts a 20-13 win over the Kansas City Chiefs and put Indianapolis in the playoffs.

2 Bengals-Steelers.
No playoffs for
Pittsburgh

Josh Brown kicked a 43-yard field goal with four seconds remaining to put Cincinnati in the playoffs and eliminate Pittsburgh from post-season contention.

3 Vikings-Texans. AP has
slow day in win

Adrian Peterson rushed for 86 yards, falling far short of the 2,000-yard mark, yet helping the Vikings (9-6) keep their post-season chances alive with a 23-6 upset of the Texans on Sunday. Peterson needs 208 yards to break the NFL single-season rushing record held by Eric Dickerson.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ski cross. Canadian pair finishes 1-2 in Italy

Canadians Kelsey Serwa and Georgia Simmerling reaped the benefits of some carnage in the final of Sunday's women's ski cross in San Candido, Italy.

Serwa, from Kelowna, B.C., came from fourth to win gold in the final of the World Cup event after Switzerland's Katrin Mueller and French veteran Ophelie David got tangled up.

Simmerling, whose best finish since switching from alpine to ski cross was ninth at San Candido last year, avoided the collision and wound up second. Simmerling finished third but

Quoted



"It was (a) fun day and I'm happy to be back on top."

Kelsey Serwa
Sunday's victory was Serwa's first since winning both races in San Candido in 2011. She has been trying to build her confidence after returning from a knee injury that ended her season last January.

was bumped up when David was disqualified. Mueller took bronze. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

MLB. Authorities probe possible suicide of Freel

Ryan Freel, a player known for his fearless play but whose career was cut short after eight seasons by a series of head and other injuries, was found dead Saturday in Jacksonville, Fla., according to the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office.

Freel, who was 36, died of what appeared to be a self-inflicted shotgun wound, sheriff's office spokesman Shannon Hartley wrote in an email Sunday. The medical examiner will make the final determination of the cause of



Ryan Freel
GETTY IMAGES FILE

death.

Freel spent six of his eight MLB seasons with Cincinnati, finishing his career in 2009 with a .268 average and 143 steals.

Freel was selected by Toronto in the 10th round of the 1995 amateur draft, but appeared in just nine games as a Blue Jay in the 2001 season.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Raptors 'not satisfied' despite rare win streak

NBA. Toronto facing tough three-game road trip that will test recent success

Things are going well enough and everyone connected with the Raptors is pleased to some degree.

Pleased but not satisfied at any level.

"We have a lot of work to do," said coach Dwane Casey, throwing a bit of necessary cold water on the good feelings permeating the franchise.

Winners of five in a row — the longest winning streak from the franchise in almost three calendar years — the Raptors strike out on a three-game, post-Christmas road trip that

will test their recent success to a large degree.

Beginning in San Antonio on Boxing Day, Toronto faces a trip of three games in four days — finishing in New Orleans and Orlando — and they do not head out on the road with any measure of recent success.

A win in Cleveland last Tuesday night was just their second in 16 road games — the other was in Indianapolis when they won despite scoring just five points in the fourth quarter — and any level of confidence has to be tempered with history.

The relative ease of the recent schedule — wins over Cleveland, Detroit and Orlando were nice but hardly came against the giants of the league — played a role in Toronto's five-game winning streak.

San Antonio is 9-2 at home, the Hornets are struggling but have some good pieces and Orlando, which has lost twice to the Raptors already this season, is over .500 at home.

"We're not satisfied, we're still a work in progress," said Casey. "We're happy about five in a row but we haven't gone anywhere." **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**



The Toronto Raptors' Terrence Ross slams back a rebound over the Orlando Magic's J.J. Redick Friday in Toronto. JESSE JOHNSTON/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Quoted

"We're 9-19 — there's no one overconfident in that room or in the coaches' room."

Raptors coach Dwane Casey

It's all about the memories for Spott



Canadian world junior head coach Steve Spott HOCKEY CANADA

When hot water hits Steve Spott in the face, the hockey side of his brain kicks into high gear.

"I do my best thinking in the shower," says the coach of the Canadian men's junior hockey team.

"My wife says I waste more hot water than anybody. I shower before practice."

All the soap in the world can't scrub away a frustrating memory for Spott.

He was an assistant coach to Willie Desjardins when Canada lost the gold medal 6-5 in over-

time to the U.S. in 2010.

Jordan Eberle scored two late goals to tie the game in Saskatoon but John Carlson ended it for the Americans in overtime.

"I see the John Carlson goal still to this day, daily," Spott says. "To have an opportunity to erase that memory is something I'm really looking forward to."

Spott was informed on his 44th birthday (May 18) that he would coach Canada at the 2013 world junior hockey championship.

The former college and minor-pro player was promoted from assistant to head coach of the Ontario Hockey League's Kitchener Rangers in 2008 when Pete DeBoer left for the NHL's New Jersey Devils.

He spent 12 seasons as DeBoer's assistant with both Kitchener and the Plymouth Whalers.

"I'm a believer in loyalty," Spott explains. "He gave me an opportunity to work full-time at this job. He was a guy who never treated me like an assistant." **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

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Horoscopes

Aries

March 21 - April 20

There is so much you can achieve now but you must play by the rules. The eyes of the world are on you and if you try to cut corners your reputation may take a dive. Make sure your behavior is beyond reproach.

Taurus

April 21 - May 21

Cosmic activity in your fellow Earth sign of Capricorn means the odds are very much in your favor at the moment, so by all means push the envelope a little and see where it takes you. It could take you far.

Gemini

May 22 - June 21

There have been a lot of ups and downs in your life in recent weeks and there may be more to come between now and the start of the new year. The good news is they will generally be more up than down.

Cancer

June 22 - July 23

You may not be in a position to call the shots at the moment but it's no big deal. If you let others make the running now chances are they will be so worn out come January that you can assert yourself again.

Leo

July 24 - Aug. 23

You may think that your big chance has come and gone but what happens over the next few days will open a brand new door and all you have to do is walk on through. The best of Leo is still to come.

Virgo

Aug. 24 - Sept. 23

The Sun in Capricorn encourages you to be more dynamic and decisive – also, to believe you have what it takes to make a creative or artistic splash. What is your special talent? Develop it to the point of perfection.

Libra

Sept. 24 - Oct. 23

Your domestic situation should improve over the next few days. The Sun in the family area of your chart bodes well for a happy and harmonious holiday season. Things will get better if you want them to get better.

Scorpio

Oct. 24 - Nov. 22

Social activities are under excellent stars and will bring a great deal of joy over the next few days. Just be careful partners and loved ones don't get the impression you would rather be with new friends than with them.

Sagittarius

Nov. 23 - Dec. 21

Don't think you can sit back and let the good things in life come to you because you will end up with less than you expected. Having taken the trouble to lay the foundations of success you must now go all the way.

Capricorn

Dec. 22 - Jan. 20

Anything is possible now – yes, absolutely anything. With both the Sun and Pluto moving through your sign if you put a name to your dream it will surely come true. Know what you want then go out and get it.

Aquarius

Jan. 21 - Feb. 19

What you think about over the next few days will be the blueprint for what you start work on early in the new year, so think deeply. But make time to have fun too. 'Tis the season to be jolly after all.

Pisces

Feb. 20 - March 20

The planets will bring you into contact with the right people in the right places at the right time, making it easy for you to make a good impression. Who you know is every bit as important as what you know.

SALLY BROMPTON

Crossword

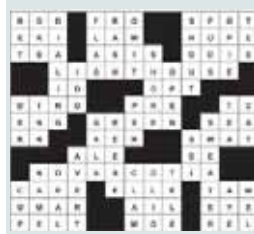
Across

- The — Four (The Beatles)
- Exercise unit
- Minor quarrel
- Burden of proof
- Ending with pay
- Actor's quest
- Antsy
- Offspring
- Battery sz.
- Sampled
- Part of a B and B
- Address abbr.
- Very long time
- Shoe size
- Oven feature
- Former times, once
- Challenges
- Actress Gardner
- Dish
- Regarding (abbr.)
- Door sign
- A Big Girl Now
- Observation
- Cross of Desperate Housewives
- and behold!
- Compass reading (abbr.)
- Irish emblem
- Role for David Canary on All My Children
- Brimless hat
- Falco of Nurse Jackie
- Singer Lovett
- Nile biter
- Calendar box

Down

- In favour of
- Wheel of Fortune purchase (word & letter)
- Method of transport
- Fish eggs
- Golfer Ernie
- Yesteryear

Friday's Crossword



What's online

See today's answers
metronews.ca/
answers.



Sudoku

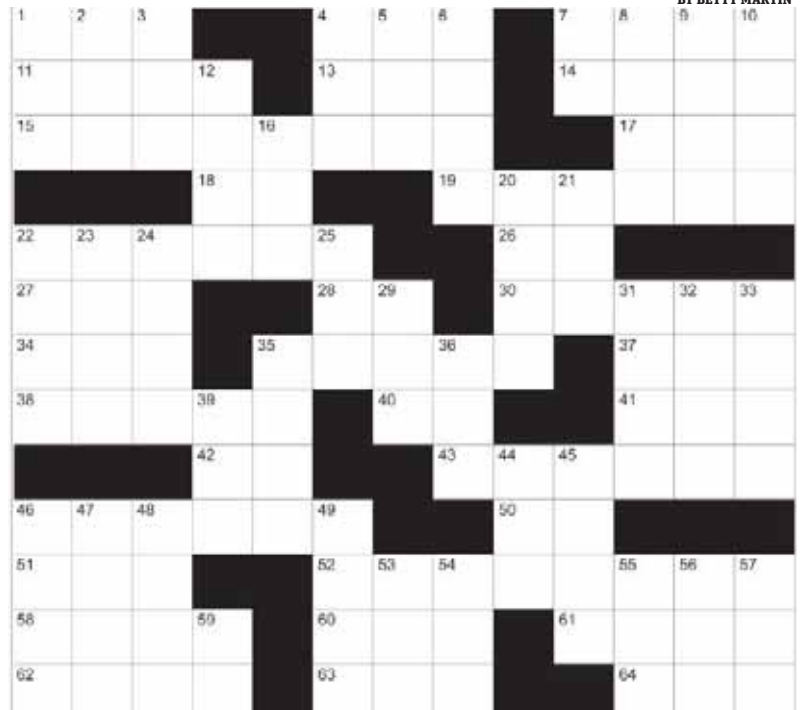
How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Friday's Sudoku

7	5	0	9	1	3	2	4	6
9	6	3	4	7	2	8	5	1
2	4	1	5	8	6	3	7	9
1	7	4	6	3	9	5	8	2
5	8	2	1	4	7	9	6	3
3	9	6	2	5	8	4	1	7
4	1	9	7	2	5	6	3	8
6	3	5	8	9	1	7	2	4
8	2	7	3	6	4	1	9	5

BY BETTY MARTIN



- Jr.'s dad
- Publicize
- Salve plant
- Be inclined
- Dorothy's ex.
- Small boy
- and crafts
- Lanka
- Page sound
- Breadbasket item
- Time — — half (2 words)

- Affirmative vote
- Blunder
- Crib cry
- Constantly
- Have status
- Actress Moore
- Always, in verse
- Quirk
- Shade source
- A bit extra
- Breakfast, lunch or dinner

- The — Griffith Show
- Heartfelt
- Nick and Nora's pooch
- Takes in
- Electrical unit
- The — Couple
- Spy org.
- Door opener
- Just Shoot —

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1°/-4°
Variable

Tuesday

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He is the biggest pop star on the planet right now, a sweet-faced Canadian teen heartthrob with multi-platinum albums – and legions of hysterically screaming fans. What is it about Justin Bieber that attracts such devotion? Is he a flash in the pan or the real deal? Can he make the treacherous transition from teen idol to adult performer?

Toronto Star feature writer Shawna Richer followed the Believe tour to 11 cities across North America, to help answer these questions. She shared line-ups and concert details with the Beliebers, going deep inside their world, and what she found was surprising, inspiring and uplifting in all the ways music itself is meant to be.

Rollicking and insightful, **OMG! JUSTIN!** is a fascinating exploration of stardom in the 21st century.

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